

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC General Military Information from the Quartering Area of theEighth Gds ArmyEVALUATION see belowPLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

OCT 6

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 22 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 7 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. On 30 May 1953, source determined that the units stationed at the Prinz-Eugen Kaserne and the driving school stationed in the Flak Kaserne, Rudolstadt, had transferred to Ohrdruf and Grawinkel respectively. On 5 June, the first mentioned unit allegedly moved from Ohrdruf to the Neu-Mustrow firing range.¹

2. On 21 May, the former Polizeikaserne in Suhl was occupied by about 300 to 400 troops, including some wearing signal or motor transport insignia. Sentries observed wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Source did not observe any heavy weapons or vehicular traffic at the installation.²

3. On 29 May, the barracks installation west of Leipziger Strasse, Altenburg, was occupied by about 80 to 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

4. On 29 May, the barracks installation east of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by about 500 troops, including 200 recruits. Troops were seen receiving instruction on 100-mm, 76-mm and 45-mm AT guns in the training area. Motor vehicles seen en route from and to the installation

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5. On 8 May, the barracks installation west of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by a rear detail of 150 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Only little training activity, no heavy weapons and no vehicular traffic were observed in the barracks area between 25 April to 8 May. On several days, 50 to 60 soldiers were seen at physical training in the barracks yard.

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6. On 8 May, the barracks installation east of Leipziger Strasse, was occupied by about 650 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and including 75 to 100 recruits. Sixty-five percent of the troops wore artillery insignia and 8 percent motor transport insignia. On 8 May, about 300 troops were seen entering the installation. On 2 and 8 May, about 28 soldiers received instruction on four 76-mm AT guns in the training area north of the installation and four trucks, each towing a 76-mm AT gun, were seen at driving practice in the terrain.

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On 5 and 8 May, about 30 soldiers engaged in field-wire laying toward the firing area north of the installation, west of Leipziger Strasse. On 8 May, two armored half-track vehicles, each towing a 100-mm AT gun, left the installation. On 8 May, about 325 troops were observed returning from a ceremony commemorating the eighth anniversary of the capitulation of Germany. Part of the column marched into the barracks installation west of Leipziger

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7. On 19 May, the Panzer Kaserne Tinz, Gera, was occupied by about 500 to 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. About 50 percent of the quarters were lighted after nightfall. On 18 May, about 450 troops were falling in in the barracks yard, and, later, part of the troops were seen drilling. At about 9 a.m., 2 JS-1 tanks and 1 JS-2 tank were seen at driving school practice in the training area in the vicinity of the installation.

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8. On 19 May, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia.

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9. On 17 May, the Reuss Kaserne, Gera, was occupied by a rear detail of about 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Between 12 and 17 May, no other training than driving school and physical training were observed.

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10. On 17 May, the Panzer Kaserne, Tinz, was occupied by about 200 to 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 12 and 17 May, 3 T-34/85 tanks, 3 SU-100 guns and 6 other tanks were observed in the barracks area as previously. During the period under review, troops were daily observed engaged in aiming practice on the tanks. On 15 May, about 180 troops left the installation for an exercise.

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11. On 18 May, the Artillerie Kaserne north of Friedens Strasse, Zeitz, was occupied by about 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 4 and 18 May, troops observed were engaged in guard duty or physical training.

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12. On 18 May, the Infanterie Kaserne east of Friedens Strasse was occupied by about 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Troops observed were engaged exclusively in guard duty and physical training. Trucks were seen en route to and from the installation.

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13. On 27 May, the barracks installation in Loebstedt, Jena, was occupied by a rear detail of about 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 11 May, source noticed that the troops included a sizable number of officers. Small groups of up to 15 soldiers were seen drilling in the barracks yard and other soldiers were maintaining 2 T-34 and 3 JS-3 tanks. On several days, source determined that the sheds were empty, except for the five tanks.

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14. On 27 May, the barracks installation in Zwaetzen was occupied by a rear detail of about 80 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On several days, source observed groups of about 20 soldiers at drill.

15. On 27 May, the Forst Kaserne was occupied by about 50 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 22 May, about 250 unarmed troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets arrived at the installation. Local residents stated that they belonged to a penal unit.

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16. On 11 May, the barracks installation in Loebstedt, Jena, was occupied by a rear detail of about 150 troops. The gates of the installation were closed. Patrol posts wore red-bordered black epaulets. An undetermined number of troops drilled and performed maintenance work on 2 T-34 tanks and 3 JS-3 tanks in the barracks yard.

17. On 11 May, the barracks installation in Zwaetzen was occupied by a rear detail of about 150 troops. Two T-34 tanks and 2 JS-3 tanks were in the installation. Source did not observe any training activity, except for groups of soldiers at drill.

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18. On 11 May, the Polizei Kaserne was occupied by a small rear detail. The gates were locked. No sentries, vehicular traffic or training activity were observed.

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19. On 11 May, the Forst Kaserne was occupied by a rear detail of about 25 to 30 soldiers. On 7 May, about 24 troops were seen falling in. The gate was closed. Source did not observe any training or vehicular traffic.⁶

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21. On 25 May, source determined that all the barracks installations in Weimar were occupied only by rear details. Neither training nor firing was observed in the installations. Only little vehicular traffic, including driving school vehicles [redacted] was observed. At about 4 p.m. on 11 May, 150 young soldiers carrying baggage and armed with rifles and submachineguns arrived aboard a regular train at the Weimar railroad station. Source believed that some of the troops were shipped to the Luetzendorf Kaserne on driving school vehicles.³

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22. On 25 May, source determined an AAA emplacement with four heavy AA guns on the east side of the Mohra airfield.

23. On 17 May, the Panzer Kaserne between Jenaer Strasse and Kegelbruecke, Weimar, was occupied by about 80 troops wearing blue-bordered black epaulets. On 15 May, 20 soldiers were seen at physical training in the barracks yard and, on 17 May, about 15 soldiers engaged in maintenance work.

24. On 12 May, the Nachrichten Kaserne south of Leibniz Allee was fully lighted after nightfall. Source was not able to determine the occupation strength. On 11 May, about 70 soldiers were drilling in the barracks yard and, on 13 May, about 80 soldiers were maintaining cables and cleaning equipment, while about 30 troops were drilling. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation included trucks [redacted]

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25. On 10 May, the telephone central in Ehringsdorf, which was in a villa at the intersection of Belvedere Allee and Am Papiergraben, was staffed by about 10 to 15 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets. [redacted]

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26. On 22 May, the former Buchenwald concentration camp was occupied by about 100 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 20 May, about 20 troops were seen at physical training. [redacted]¹⁰

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27. On 22 May, the Flak Kaserne, Weimar, was occupied by about 120 to 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 18 May, four trucks were being maintained in front of a motor vehicle shed. [redacted] the installation.¹¹ 25X1C
28. On 22 May, the Tannenberg Kaserne was occupied by about 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 15 soldiers with 3 trucks, marked as driving school, were seen in the barracks area. [redacted] 25X1C
[redacted] On 13 May, about 40 soldiers were seen en route to the west section of the installation, coming from the drill grounds.⁶ 25X1C
29. On 22 May, the east section of the Luetzendorf Kaserne was almost vacant. About 40 soldiers received training in firing in the central section of the installation.⁶ The hospital in the west section of the installation was only lightly occupied. [redacted] parked in front of the entrance. 25X1C
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30. On 22 May, the Nachrichten Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Between 12 and 22 May, an undetermined number of troops were seen training and maintaining vehicles in the barracks area. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1C
31. On 22 May, troops observed at the Nohra airfield engaged in leveling work and construction work at the former Erziehungsheim.⁹ Trucks [redacted] 25X1C
[redacted] hauled logs and sand to the installation.
32. On 14 May, the Luetzendorf Kaserne, Weimar, was occupied by about 150 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport, artillery and, a few, tank insignia; and by 200 to 250 sick. The former tank shed was vacant. [redacted] 25X1C
33. On 14 May, the Tannenberg Kaserne was occupied by about 200 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport and artillery insignia. On 12 May, 8 sedans and 1 armored personnel carrier were seen in front of a vehicle shed, and, on 14 May, about 30 troops engaged in physical training in the barracks yard. [redacted] an armored personnel carrier entered the installation.⁶ 25X1C
34. On 14 May, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 150 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and, a few, with motor transport insignia. On 12 and 14 May, about 40 soldiers practiced marching in the barracks yard. On 14 May, [redacted] 25X1C
[redacted] 25X1C
35. On 21 May, the AAA emplacement of four 85-mm AA guns was seen as previously in the north section of the Nohra airfield installations. Two canvas-covered devices and a radio station with a mast, about 10 meters high, was close to the guns. Truck [redacted] parked nearby. On 21 May, four 37-mm AA guns were emplaced in the south section of the Nohra Fliegerhorst; a tent camp and nine trucks were observed nearby. [redacted] 25X1C
[redacted] 25X1C
[redacted] 25X1C
36. On 27 May, the Flak Kaserne, Merseburg, was occupied by about 50 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Source did not observe any training activity or sentries in the barracks area.

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37. On 15 May, the Flak Kaserne, Merseburg, was occupied by about 250 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Source did not observe any training activity or heavy weapons. Between 27 April and 15 May, about 20 VP officers up to and including captains, were daily observed in the barracks area. Source expressed the belief that these officers received instruction in the installation. During the period under review, a large sedan, occupied by a general of the armored command [redacted] was repeatedly seen entering and leaving the installation. [redacted]

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38. Between 16 and 19 May, no activities were observed in the barracks installations on either side of Schubert Strasse in Gotha. A truck, occupied by 3 soldiers, entered the installation.¹³

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39. On 16 May, 53 T-34 tanks were seen near Herzberg in the Gospiteroda-Petriroda-Emleben area. Local residents stated that the unit had come from Naumburg.

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40. On 29 May, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne, Halle, was occupied by about 200 to 250 troops, mostly wearing red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity was observed in the barracks area. Trucks [redacted] and [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation.

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41. On 13 May, two T-34 tanks, including No 233, were detrained at the Halle freight station and subsequently left toward the Luftnachrichten Kaserne.

42. On 26 May, the Flak Kaserne in Woermlitz, Halle, was occupied by a rear detail of 40 to 50 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Between 21 and 26 May, source did not observe any training activity or vehicular traffic.¹⁴

43. On 26 May, source determined that the guard house in the Reil Kaserne was occupied by KVP personnel, including 1 officer, 3 NCOs and 12 to 15 EM with crimson collar patches. No activities or vehicular traffic were observed in the barracks area.¹⁵

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44. On 26 May, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne was occupied by about 150 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia. Only driving school practices with trucks were observed in the barracks area. [redacted]

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45. On 19 May, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne, Halle, was occupied by a rear detail, with the sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted]

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[redacted] No activities were observed at the firing range and at the Brandberge (hills).¹⁴

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1. [redacted] Comment. Compare with a report by another source of 1 May 1953. See [redacted]. The unit mentioned by source in connection with Ohrdruf and Wustrow is rather safely believed to be the 497th AAA Regt (US) of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps. The driving school mentioned by source presumably is the motor transport section of the Hq XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Suhl has not been known as military post. As Suhl, in 1952, became the seat of the Bezirk administration, and as no heavy weapons have been observed in the installation, the unit observed may be an MVD unit or a guard and komendatura unit of the SCC.

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- 25X1A 3. Comment. The information by the two sources and a third source indicate no change in the occupation of the barracks installations in Altenburg. See [redacted].
- 25X1A 4. Comment. According to the information by the two sources, who repeatedly observed instruction on tanks of various types, a tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army appears to be stationed in the Panzer Kaserne, Tinz. It is believed that personnel of the 220th Hiv Tank SP Regt from Glauchau was detached there. However, there also is the possibility that a tank training unit transferred from Glauchau to Gera in December 1952. For pertinent information, compare with [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted].
- 25X1A 5. Comment. The 308th Arty Brig (US) of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps previously stationed in the Reuss Kaserne moved to Ohrdruf in late April. See [redacted].
- 25X1A 6. Comment. The units of the 20th Gds Mecz Div stationed in Zeitz, Jena and Weimar, since late April, can be carried in Camp Crawinkel, Ohrdruf.
- 25X1A 7. Comment. [redacted] the 172d Gds How Arty Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div in Jena until 1 April 1953.
- 25X1A 8. Comment. The Tannenberg Kaserne, which adjoins the Luetzendorf Kaserne, houses the transient quarters for the personnel exchange of the Eighth Gds Army. Another source, in late April, made similar observations as source of paragraph 21 and, besides, reported 50 boxcars assembled at the railroad station. Paragraphs 6 and 15 of this report also contain information on recruits. In connection with reports on transportation, which indicated that, on 20 March, two troop shipments arrived at Frankfurt/Oder from the USSR, this information tends to indicate that for about 2 months, recruits kept arriving or a personnel exchange took place. No information on the total number of troops involved has been obtained, however.
- 25X1A 9. Comment. No major changes are discernible with the Hq Eighth Gds Army and the barracks installations occupied by the signal units of the army.
- 25X1A 10. Comment. Compare with a report by another source of 10 May 1953. See [redacted].
- 25X1A 11. Comment. The absence from the Flak Kaserne of the bulk of the 13th AAA Div stationed there has repeatedly been confirmed. Elements are believed stationed at Ohrdruf and Wustrow.
- 25X1A 12. Comment. The 76th Arty Brig (US) of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, stationed in Merseburg in late April, left for Kindel. The information by source of paragraph 37 again indicates the possibility of a transfer to the KVP of the installation, as was first mentioned in late April by source [redacted].
- 25X1A 13. Comment. According to a report by the same source, the barracks installations appeared to be occupied to capacity on 23 April. It is undetermined, whether the units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div stationed there meanwhile transferred to Kindel and whether the 172d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt left for employment at the zonal border.




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- 25X1A 14.  Comment. The bulk of the 21st Gds Mecz Div is in the Lossa
25X1A training area. See 
- 25X1A 15.  Comment. According to previous reports by the same source, the
Reil Kaserne discontinued to be occupied by the Soviet Army in April 1953.

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